

**Early Childhood Development and Health Board Nominees Meeting**

**Tuesday, February 27, 2007**

**9:00am-5:00pm**

*1740 West Adams, Room 411*

*Arizona Department of Health Services*

*Phoenix, Arizona*

**Members Present:**

Nadine Mathis Basha  
Rhian Evans Allvin  
Pamela Powell  
Paul Luna  
Gene Thompson  
Jack Jewett  
Cecil Patterson

**Ex-Officio Members Present;**

Tracy Wareing  
Susan Gerard  
Karen Woodhouse (Designee for Tom Horne)

**Members Absent:**

Vivian Juan-Saunders  
Gary Pasquinelli  
Anthony Rodgers (Ex-Officio)

**Guests:**

**Adam Andrews**

**Staff Present:**

Karen Ortiz  
Alicia Smith  
Donna Migliore  
Jennifer Johnson  
Judy Walruff  
Sandy Foreman  
Calita Calloway

**I. Welcome**

The meeting was called to order at 9:15 a.m., Nadine Basha, chair, welcomed the members and the public.

**II. State Agency Presentations, Services for Children Birth-Age Five**

Tracy Wareing, Director of the Department of Economic Security presented an overview of the DES programs that support children ages 0-5, including Healthy Families, The Family to Family Initiatives, the Community Network Teams and DES Early Childhood Task Force.

DES programs are aligned with the ECDH Initiative goals.

Area 1: Quality and Access to Early Childhood Development Programs-

Area 2: Access to Preventative Health Programs and Screenings

Area 3: Support and Education for Early Childhood Development and Literacy

Area 4: Community Outreach

Area 5: Child Care Training and Early Intervention

Area 6: Accountability

Area 7: Coordination with Sister Agencies:

Healthy Families Program contracts with providers; it is an in-home program make regular home visits and focus on issues such as child development, parenting skills, health and dental care, and parental self-sufficiency.

Federal Quality Set Aside dollars fund child care resource and referral community based programs that assist families with finding child care.

Funds also support the recruitment of new child care providers, provide training for providers, grant scholarships at the community colleges for degrees and certificates in early childhood education, and support programs to improve quality and achieve a national accreditation. DES funding primarily support low-income families.

Child care subsidies are currently being paid at the 75<sup>th</sup> percentile of the 2000 market rates. If the child care program is accredited DES will reimburse at a higher rate. There is currently no waiting list for Child Care Subsidies.

Susan Gerard, Director of the Department of Health Services

Director Gerard presented an overview of the Department of Health Services programs for children and families, with a focus on children birth to age 5. She also discussed the process for revising the licensing regulations.

The agency conducts an internal process based on data and observations from the field and recommendations from the public; the focus is on what needs to be changed to improve services. This information is compiled and presented to the public and the various stakeholders in order to come to a consensus about what revisions will go forward to the Governor's Regulatory Review Council (GRRRC).

Sandy Foreman, School Readiness Board Early Care and Education Policy analyst reported that the School Readiness Board created a Child Care Licensing Task Force, which has been meeting since November, in order to make recommendations for changes to licensing regulations. That Task Force will report to the SRB in April and send the recommendations to the Department of Health Services.

Sue reported that ADHS has a memo from the Attorney General's Office indicating that the agency cannot participate in a Quality Rating System or address quality improvements. Their mandate is to regulate only for adequate health, safety and well being of children. Discussion ensued regarding this memo and action that the ECDH Board might take.

**III. Lunch**

**IV. Statewide Assessment**

Rhian Evans Allvin led a discussion about the statewide assessment that must be completed by the Board by December 15, 2007.

There are two statutory requirement related to assessment. The first is a statewide assessment of existing early childhood development and health programs in Arizona including an assessment of any unmet needs. The second requirement is a review and approval of the biannual needs and assets assessment submitted by the regional partnerships. The bi-annual assessment must be completed on or before December 15, 2007. Gerry Cobb has recommended that the Board issue an RFP for completion of an assessment. She will provide samples RFPs from North Carolina.

Cecil Patterson moved and Paul Luna seconded the motion to have the interim director work with Rhian and Gene Thompson to begin developing the scope of work for the assessment due in December. The motion passed. They will report on their activities at the March Board meeting.

**V. New Agenda Items**

Jack Jewett and Paul Luna will work on "branding" issues for the initiative and the board. They will present their recommendations to the Board at the next meeting.

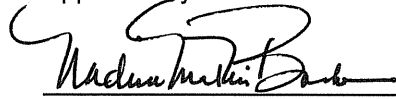
**VI. Call to the Public**

Bruce Liggett, Executive Director of Arizona Child Care Association (ACCA), introduced himself and the organization he represents. He addressed the Board about legislative issues related to an increase in the child care subsidy.

**VII. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 2:10 p.m.

Approved by the Board March 27, 2007:

  
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Nadine Mathis Basha, Chairman